



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TWO MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING MORE THAN 100 KILOS OF MARIJUANA IN LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two men pleaded guilty in federal court today to participating in a conspiracy to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana in Lawrence County, Mo.

**Donald A. Patrick**, 55, of Mechanicsburg, Ill., and **Jerry Lee Kohl**, 50, of Alpena, Ariz., both pleaded guilty in separate appearances before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr to the charges contained in a March 24, 2005, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty today, **Patrick** and **Kohl** admitted that they transported loads of marijuana from Texas to several locations, including Louisville, Ken., Chicago, Ill., and Fort Wayne, Ind., from July 2004 to March 23, 2005. On each trip, Graves said, **Patrick** made the arrangements and hired **Kohl**, paying him \$5,000 per trip to drive the loads of marijuana.

**Patrick** and **Kohl** were arrested on March 23, 2005, when the vehicle **Kohl** was driving was stopped for a state commercial motor vehicle compliance check. **Kohl** was traveling eastbound on I-44 in Lawrence County, pulling a horse trailer. During a subsequent search of the trailer, officers located a false compartment that contained more than 100 kilograms of marijuana. **Patrick** was traveling with **Kohl**, but in a separate vehicle.

Under federal statutes, **Patrick** and **Kohl** could each be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus fines up to \$2 million. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Rush. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)